

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01616 160929Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /062 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW
SUBJECT: MAGAZINE SUSPENSION

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT A MINOR PUBLICATION CALLED CHIN JIH FU HUI ("THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATURE TODAY") WAS SUSPENDED FROM PUBLICATION FOR ONE YEAR BY THE AUTHORITIES LAST MONTH. THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED THE WEEKLY'S SUSPENSION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MAGAZINE CHANGED ITS FORMAT FROM A FOUR-PAGE WEEKLY TO A 64-PAGE SEMI-MONTHLY WITHOUT FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURES, AND ALSO ILLEGALLY "LENT" ITS LICENSE TO OTHERS. INDEPENDENT LEGISLATOR K'ANG NING-HSIANG RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE REAL REASON FOR THE MAGAZINE'S CLOSURE WAS THAT IT HAD COLLECTED AND PRINTED A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS (SOME OF WHICH HAD APPEARED ELSEWHERE) BY MANY PROMINENT LOCAL INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS INCLUDING TAINAN MAYOR SU NAN-CH'ENG, NANTOU PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYMAN CHANG CHUNG-HUNG AND TAOYUAN MAGISTRATE HSU HSIN-LIANG.

2. THE MAGAZINE'S SUSPENSION IS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN IN TAIPEI
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AND DOWN-ISLAND, EVEN AMONG PEOPLE WHO WATCH SUCH THINGS. OFFICIAL SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE MAGAZINE IN ITS OLD FORMAT WAS PUBLISHED ONLY IRREGULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS POOR REPUTATION AMONG ADVERTISERS AND ITS CONSEQUENT INABILITY TO OBTAIN REGULAR ADVERTISING COPY. WE HAVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ON ITS CIRCULATION, BUT ASSUME IT WAS VERY LOW. THE FEBRUARY ISSUE -- THE FIRST IN THE NEW SEMI-MONTHLY FORM -- SEEMS TO

HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO BOOST CIRCULATION. BY DEVOTING THIS
ONE ISSUE COMPLETELY TO LOCAL INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS, AND
BY BOLDLY STATING THAT THE ISSUE'S PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE NON-
PARTY POLITICIANS A FORUM TO COMMUNICATE THEIR IDEAS ON LAST
NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS TO THE RULING KMT, THE MAGAZINE OBVIOUSLY
WENT TOO FAR. ITS SUSPENSION ILLUSTRATES THAT PROGRESS TOWARD
A MORE OPEN PRESS IS NOT LIKELY TO BE A STRAIGHT-LINE DEVELOP-
MENT.
UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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